CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/PV.417
8 July 1969
ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 8 July 1969, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. R. CARACCIOLO (Italy)

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PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Brazil:	Mr. S.A. FRAZAO
	Mr. C.A. de SOUZA e SILVA
	Mr. L.F. PALMEIRA LAMPREIA
Bulgaria:	Mr. K. CHRISTOV
	Mr. M. KARASSIMEONOV
Burma:	U KYAW MIN
Canada:	Mr. G. IGNATIEFF
	Mr. R.W. CLARK
	Mr. J.R. MORDEN
Czechoslovakia:	Mr. T. LAHODA
	Mr. J. STRUCKA
	Mr. J. CINGROS
Ethiopia:	Mr. G. ALULA
India:	Mr. M.A. HUSAIN
	Mr. K.P. JAIN
Italy:	Mr. R. CARACCIOLO
	Mr. F. LUCIOLI OTTIERI
	Mr. R. BORSARELLI
	Mr. U. PESTALOZZA
Japan:	Mr. K. ASAKAI
	Mr. Y. NAKAYAMA
	Mr. T. SENGOKU
	Mr. J. SAKAMOTO
Mexico:	Mr. J. CASTANEDA
	Miss E. AGUIRRE
	Mr. H. CARDENAS RODRIGUEZ
	Mr. R. VALERO

[illegible]OSITORY

Mongolia:	Mr. M. DUGERSUREN
	Mr. J. BANZAR
	Mr. S. ADIKHOU
Nigeria:	Mr. C.O. HOLLIST
	Mr. L.A. MALIKI
Poland:	Mr. H. JAROSZEK
	Mr. A. SKOWRONSKI
	Mr. H. STEPOSZ
	Mr. R. WLAZLO
Romania:	Mr. N. ECOBESCO
	Mr. O. IONESCO
	Mr. C. GEORGESCO
	Mr. A. SASU
Sweden:	Mr. A. EDELSTAM
	Mr. O. DAHLEN
	Mr. R. BOMAN
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN
	Mr. R.M. TIMERBAEV
	Mr. V.V. SHOUSTOV
	Mr. V.B. TOULINOV
United Arab Republic:	Mr. H. KHALLAF
	Mr. O. SIRRY
	Mr. E.S. El REEDY
	Mr. Y. RIZK

United Kingdom:	Mr. I.F. PORTER
	Mr. W.N. HILLIER-FRY
	Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE
United States of America:	Mr. J.F. LEONARD
	Mr. A.F. NEIDLE
	Mr. W. GIVAN
	Mr. R. McCORMACK
Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. D. PROTITCH
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. W. EPSTEIN

1. The CHAIRMAN (Italy) (translation from French): I declare open the 417th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

2. Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland): We have before us on the Conference table the report of the Secretary-General on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use (A/7575). As the Committee knows, my delegation proposed at last year's session of the Committee the preparation of such a report. The Polish delegation would therefore like to put on record its appreciation and thanks to both the Secretary-General and the experts for this report, which we will carefully study with all the attention it deserves. We will give very careful consideration, both in this Committee and in other bodies of the United Nations, to the conclusions contained in the report and the recommendations of the Secretary-General. I should like to add the appreciation and thanks of the Polish delegation to all those who have contributed to the preparation of this report, which I am sure will provide very important and valuable material for the work of the Committee.

3. Mr. EDELSTAM (Sweden): The Swedish delegation also earnestly welcomes the report on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use. The negotiations on disarmament in this Committee and in the United Nations have in the past been concerned chiefly with nuclear weapons. There have been some important achievements, but much remains to be done; and I wish to remind my colleagues particularly of the urgent need to reach a comprehensive test ban.

4. Among our other duties the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons must be accorded very high priority. Certainly the Geneva Protocol of 1925 is there, prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare; but we should strive further. The Geneva Protocol must be ratified by more States. Its applicability to the totality of these agents has to be established without doubt; and the production and stocking of these weapons have also to be prohibited. We consider the work accomplished by the group of experts to be outstanding; and I am glad to note that a Swedish expert took an active part in that work. We are confident that the discussions on this important item in the Committee will greatly benefit from the report. As was said by several speakers during the informal meeting of the Committee on this matter on 15 May, we must not fail to put forward in our forthcoming report to the United Nations General

A (Mr. Edelstam, Sweden)

Assembly some specific suggestions leading to realistic progress in the field of the prohibition of these horrible means of warfare. This is clearly expected of us.

5. Mr. CASTANEDA (Mexico)(translation from Spanish). Like the delegations of Poland and Sweden, the delegation of Mexico is gratified at the presentation to our Committee of the Secretary-General's report on chemical and bacteriological weapons. Of course, we have not yet had time even to read through the table of contents, but in view of the high standing of those who have taken part in preparing it, I am sure that it is a document of high quality. I am also sure that it will contribute to the study of this very important subject within our Committee.

6. In expressing gratification at the presentation of this document, I should like also to voice the hope that this Committee will soon be in a position to tackle this subject directly and to study it as a matter of priority. My delegation has always attached great importance to the consideration of this specific question, and this new element of study will contribute, as I have said, to a better and more fruitful consideration of the subject by this Committee.

7. Mr. PORTER (United Kingdom): I too should like to express the warm appreciation of my delegation for all the work that has been put into the production of the Secretary-General's report by the distinguished group of scientific consultants under the able chairmanship and guidance of Mr. Epstein. They are to be congratulated for achieving this important task by 1 July, the target date set in General Assembly resolution 2454 A (XXIII). This is a matter which particularly interests my delegation, and I know that my Minister, Mr. Mulley, will have more to say about it when he speaks on Thursday.

8. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada): I too should like to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report which has been placed on our table this morning. There can be no doubt that the question of banning chemical and biological weapons is one which is arousing ever-increasing public interest and concern in the world, and my delegation, along with other delegations here, fully shares that interest and concern. Because of this the Canadian delegation is particularly happy to have been able to play a part last year at the United Nations in developing, in collaboration with our Polish friends among others, the General Assembly resolution (2454 A (XXIII)) which requested the Secretary-General to prepare the report which has now been distributed. The report's appearance is especially timely as a means of informing the public about

(Mr. Ignatieff, Canada)

what is involved in these kinds of weapons; and I know that the sentiment has been expressed by some in this Committee that little progress on this important subject would be possible without the report before us for reference. This difficulty has happily been met today. We hope that during the remainder of this session of the Conference our discussions will be fruitful, so that we may be able to include some constructive proposals -- even, if necessary because of the time available, on an interim basis -- on chemical and bacteriological (biological) warfare in the report of this Committee to the next session of the United Nations General Assembly. That would seem to be essential for the consideration of this important matter by the General Assembly at its next session.

9. Finally, may I pay a tribute, as my colleagues have done, not only to the experts who are the co-authors of this report but also to the members of the Secretariat, and above all to Mr. Epstein and Mr. Corradini, all of whom worked so very hard to meet the deadline imposed on them by the General Assembly resolution.

10. May I take this opportunity of extending a welcome, on behalf of the Canadian delegation and on my own behalf, to our new co-Chairman, Mr. Leonard, and to the delegations of Japan and Mongolia? I am particularly happy to welcome Ambassador Asakai as the representative of a country with which Canada has particularly close and continually growing ties. Moreover, Japan, as one of the most technologically advanced and developed countries in the world, can be expected to make an essential contribution to our deliberations here. I have had the pleasure also of being associated with two distinguished representatives of the People's Republic of Mongolia at the United Nations in New York, and know that they too bring a constructive presence to our Conference table.

11. Mr. ASAKAI (Japan): The Japanese delegation is happy to say that an expert from our country who is an authority in this field of study participated in the discussion and preparation of this report of the Secretary-General on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use. We had a talk with him in Tokyo, and I must say that we were deeply impressed by the outstanding work done by the experts who participated in the preparation of this document. It is a very important document and will make a great contribution to the future discussion of this problem of preventing a horrible disaster to mankind.

(Mr. Asakai, Japan)

12. May I take this opportunity to express the thanks of our delegation for the kind remarks made by the representative of Canada?

13. The CHAIRMAN (Italy) (translation from French): Since no other member of the Committee wishes to speak, I think that, as Chairman of this meeting, I may sum up the various statements that have been made by saying that the Committee as a whole has expressed its appreciation for the report presented to it and thanks the Secretary-General for giving his utmost attention to the preparation of this document and for transmitting it to us.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its 417th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador R. Caracciolo, representative of Italy.

"Statements were made by the representatives of Poland, Sweden, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan and by the Chairman.

"A letter dated 1 July 1969 from the Secretary-General to the co-Chairmen of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was submitted, transmitting the Report on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use (ENDC/254).

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 10 July 1969, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.